

Message Text

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42

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 OMB-01 /100 W

----- 044399

R 041106Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9685

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

USUN NEW YORK 193

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, BU, KN

SUBJECT: KIM BARNSTORMS BULGARIA

REFS: A) ALGIERS 1295; B) BELGRADE 2712

1. KIM IL SUNG AND NORTH KOREAN ENTOURAGE OF 300 ARRIVED
SOFIA AFTERNOON OF JUNE 2 ON FOUR ILYUSHINS AND ONE BOEING
707 RENTED FROM PRC. GROUP REQUIRED SOMETHING LIKE 90
VEHICLES TO BRING THEM FROM AIRPORT INTO CITY. KIM'S
RECEPTION, WHICH FEATURED PROMENADE WITH BULGARIAN
COMMUNIST PARTY FIRST SECRETARY AND PREMIER ZHIVKOV ON
ROSE-STREWN SEPTEMBER 9TH SQUARE, WAS WARM AND FRIENDLY
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ALTHOUGH NOT EXCESSIVELY SO. CROWDS WHICH TURNED OUT

SHOWED MORE CURIOSITY THAN ENTHUSIASM. ONLY FEW SIGNS ("KOREAN-BULGARIAN FRIENDSHIP FOREVER") AND PICTURES OF KIM WERE IN EVIDENCE ALTHOUGH THERE WAS USUAL QUOTA OF HAND-HELD FLAGS. IN DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL PROTOCOL PROCEDURE ESTABLISHED TWO YEARS AGO IN SOFIA, HEADS OF MISSIONS OF THOSE COUNTRIES HAVING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA WERE INVITED TO SOFIA AIRPORT FOR KIM'S ARRIVAL. AT A DINNER HELD EVENING JUNE 2 ZHIVKOV AND KIM STRUCK SIMILAR CHORDS WITH REMARKS AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND SOUTH KOREA PUPPETS, AND CALLS FOR WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN TROOPS STATIONED IN SOUTH KOREA "AS UN TROOPS".

2. ON JUNE 3 KIM AND ENTOURAGE FLEW TO TOLBUKHIN IN NORTHEAST BULGARIA WITH ZHIVKOV FROM WHERE THEY VISITED BLACK SEA COASTAL RESORT OF ALBENA AND CHEMICAL COMPLEX IN DEVNYA. ON SAME DAY THEY FLEW SHORT HOP TO VARNNA AND WERE MET BY POLITBURO CANDIDATE MEMBER TODOR STOICHKOV, FIRST SECRETARY OF CC OF VARNNA DISTRICT, FOR MORE PROCESSIONS AND SPEECHES. KIM APPARENTLY REMAINED VARNNA OVERNIGHT JUNE 3, AND OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS INDICATE ONLY THAT BULGARIAN-NORTH KOREAN FRIENDSHIP "MEETING" WILL BE HELD 1800 GMT JUNE 5 IN SOFIA.

3. INFORMED GOB SOURCES HAVE INDICATED TO US THAT KIM WISHES TO PROCEED TO BELGRADE, BUT HAS BEEN DELAYED BY PRIOR YUGOSLAV COMMITMENTS, APPARENTLY A REFERENCE TO CARAMANLIS VISIT (REFTEL B). PRESUMPTION AT PRESENT IS THAT, BARRING FURTHER INFORMATION, KIM WILL APPARENTLY PROLONG STAY HERE UNTIL HE CAN PROCEED BELGRADE. THUS, WE REASON THE "MEETING" IS TO BE HELD JUNE 5 ALLOWING FOR A DEPARTURE TO BELGRADE ON JUNE 6. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND HE WANTS TO VISIT SYRIA. WHOLE ITINERARY REMAINS SOMEWHAT OF A MYSTERY. HOWEVER EAST GERMAN AND HUNGARIAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS ASSURE US HE WILL NOT BE VISITING THEIR COUNTRIES. IN NOTE OF FUSTRATION ON ENTIRE KIM TRAVEL SCHEDULE, ONE GOB SOURCE HAS STATED THAT TRIP APPEARS ENTIRELY "AD HOC", AND THAT PERHAPS NORTH KOREANS THEMSELVES NOT CERTAIN WHERE ALL THEY WILL BE VISITING.

3. DESPITE MUCH MEDIA COVERAGE, LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN ZHIVKOV AND KIM HAS SURFACED AT THIS POINT. WE UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT KIM SEEKS RESOLUTION OF UN MEMBERSHIP QUESTION AS WELL AS REMOVAL OF UN TROOPS FROM SOUTH KOREA, AND THAT HE SEEKS NON-ALIGNED OBSERVER STATUS. ONE DIPLOMAT REPRESENTING NON-ALIGNED COUNTRY HAS STATED THERE WOULD BE NOTHING TO PREVENT THIS, SINCE NORTH KOREA IS NOT A MEMBER OF ANY MILITARY PACT.

4. THOSE NORTH KOREAN OFFICIALS LISTED IN KIM'S DELEGATIONS
ARE: KIM TONG-KYU, MEMBER POLITICAL COMMITTEE AND SECRETARY
OF CC IN KOREAN WORKERS' PARTY (KWP) AND VICE PRESIDENT,
DPRK; ARMY GENERAL O DIN U, MEMBER POLITICAL COMMITTEE
AND SECRETARY OF CC KWP AND CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF;
LYU DYAN SIK, CANDIDATE MEMBER POLITICAL COMMITTEE OF
CC KWP; HO TAM, MEMBER OF CC KWP, DEPUTY PREMIER AND
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS; AND CHONG SONG NAM, MEMBER
CC KWP, MINISTER EXTERNAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS.
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